

La Mirada - Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) hosted a recognition ceremony Monday to present military service medals to several local veterans. The event took place at the Eternal Flame Memorial located in the La Mirada Civic Center Plaza.

“It is a great honor to be involved in helping these brave veterans finally secure the awards that they earned through their dedication and service to our nation,” said Congresswoman Sánchez.

Four veterans were honored during the event:

- Robert Sánchez, Army PFC, a Vietnam Veteran and La Mirada resident, was awarded a Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon w/device (1960), Expert Badge with Machine Gun Bar, Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar, and a Marksman Badge with Auto Rifle Badge.

- Enrique Santana, Army SFC, a Vietnam Veteran and Whittier resident, was awarded a Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with 2 bronze service awards, Combat Infantryman Badge, and a United Nations Service Medal.

- Jesus Santos, Army SSG, a Vietnam Veteran and Whittier resident was awarded a Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 bronze service stars, Expert Badge with Machine Gun Bar, Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar, and Marksman Badge with Auto Rifle Bar.

- Joe Manriquez, a Vietnam Veteran and Whittier Resident, was awarded a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Air Medal with “V” Device, and the Army Commendation Medal.

“These veterans earned their medals years ago but, for various bureaucratic reasons, did not receive them at the time. It has been my pleasure to assist these veterans in working through the bureaucracy of the Department of Defense to receive the recognition they have earned,” continued Sánchez.

Attending the ceremony were La Mirada Mayor Bob Chotiner, Mayor Pro Tem Pete Dames, Councilmember Steve Jones, Councilmember Hal Malkin, Councilmember Susan Tripp, and City Manager Andrea Travis.

Also honored in the ceremony was Navy Petty Officer 1st Class, Michael A. Cope, a La Mirada resident, who died in the service of his country last year. He was 32 years old.

“I feel truly proud on a day like today to stand next to heroes who were so willing to fight and

sacrifice when our country called upon them, and to remember Michael's dedication and service. Events like this let our veterans and their families know that we will be forever grateful to them," concluded Congresswoman Sánchez.